

Little Orleans Grocery  
AL-1-A-043  
Orleans Road  
ca.1840

Built during the early 1840's, the Little Orleans Grocery was a warehouse and stopping point on the C & O Canal. The building was equipped with pulleys and apparatus to lift cargo to and from canal boats below. In 1905 the building was moved for construction of the Western Maryland Railroad. A year later it was acquired by the Callan family which operated in the store and post office for two generations. Original entrances with heavy outer doors and shutters on the windows retain the early appearance of the building as seen in old photographs.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Little Orleans Grocery

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Orleans Road

CITY, TOWN

Little Orleans

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES RESTRICTED☒ YES UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William J. Schoenadel

Telephone #: 478-2701

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Little Orleans

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21766

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 428

Folio #: 393

STREET &amp; NUMBER

30 Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Cumberland,

STATE

Maryland 21502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1905</u>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Little Orleans Grocery is located on the northern side of Orleans Road in Little Orleans.

This building was originally a rectangular structure four bays wide and two and a half stories tall. A three bay frame addition has been added abutting the original on the northwest. Wall construction is of board and batten, partially covered with asbestos shingles.

The building rests on a high stone foundation of random ashlar stone with a plain water table. The eaves consist of a box cornice, soffit, and frieze with returns on the gable ends. The gable flank roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Wall features include cornerboards. The original chimney is of brick located inside end.

The entrance in the center of the southwestern facade, and a similar one on the southeastern facade are original. They consist of double doors with original hardware, one recessed panel, and two lights each. The entrances are pedimented and have original heavy wooden shutters. Replaced windows are of one over one and two over two lights. Six over six light windows on the rear (northeastern) facade may be original. (See 1896 picture)

A large porch on the southwest and southeast has a shed roof and ten chamfered wooden posts. (See 1896 Picture). The foundation of the building was replaced in 1905 when the building was moved approximately 100 yards.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      ca. 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Little Orleans Grocery, built ca. 1840, was a warehouse and stopping point for C & O Canal boats. The warehouse was equipped with a beam extending over the canal. A pulley rope was attached to the beam. When a canal boat pulled up alongside the warehouse, its cargo would be tied to one end of the rope and the rope's other end would be hitched to a mule on the Canal's towpath. In this manner, the cargo was lifted to warehouse level.(1)

Originally adjacent to the C & O Canal, the grocery is now located on Orleans Road. In 1905, it was moved 100 yards to make room for the laying of track for the Western Maryland Railroad.

In 1906, Charles and Harry Callan bought the Little Orleans Grocery. The Callan family owned and operated the store and post office for two generations.(2)

Today, the Little Orleans Grocery serves primarily tourists and hunters. The grocery was an integral part of the transportation link connecting the East Coast with the Midwest. The building stands as a reminder of the importance of Allegany County's role in the economic development of the Nation.

(1) Cumberland News, 5 June 1975

(2) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 99, Folio 270

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cumberland News

Allegany County Land Records

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.66 Acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David A. Dorsey and Shara Goodwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

STREET & NUMBER

3-33 Pershing Street

CITY OR TOWN

Cumberland.

DATE

February 26, 1979

TELEPHONE

777-5944

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# Old Store Attracts Tourists

By JAN P. ALDERTON  
News Staff Writer

With the bicentennial celebration gearing up and the general increased awareness of local history, the Little Orleans area is receiving more and more visitors.

One of the focal points of that area is Bill's Orleans Grocery, a 150-year-old business which once was a warehouse and stopping point for C&O Canal boats.

William J. Schoenadel, owner of the grocery, said that while much of his business is generated by hunters and fishermen, the boom in tourism and the interest in history accounts for many of the visitors who stop by his store.

Located on the Orleans Road, the grocery was originally along the canal, but in 1905 it was moved 100 yards to make way for the laying of track for the Western Maryland Railway.

Besides the close proximity of the 185-mile canal, the store is near the quaint little St. Patrick's Church, which is surrounded by a cemetery that predates the present church building. The earliest burial date in the cemetery was noted at 1802, and the cemetery contains the graves, many of them unmarked, of Irish canal construction workers and their descendants.

The C&O Canal Towpath Guide points out that several tombstones show a birthdate but not a date of death, indicating possibly that an enterprising peddler of tombstones passed through the community in the late 1800s.

Orleans Road itself was the main route from Fort Frederick to Fort Cumberland for many years, and traffic of all sorts — horseback, supply wagons and stage lines — passed over the road until a more direct route across the mountain summits was opened.

Little Orleans was the scene of a riot of construction workers on May 17, 1838 which resulted from non-payment of workers by canal contractors, followed by a work stoppage.

German laborers were hired to replace the Irish, and a German worker was clubbed to

death with swinging shillelaghs, while another German was thrown into a bonfire and burned to death.

After reinforcements of 500 duck guns arrived from Baltimore, Irish from Little Orleans to Paw Paw took up arms and a riot near the tunnel ensued. Three companies of state militia from Baltimore responded and confiscated and destroyed the guns, burned Irish shanties, confiscated whisky and suppressed the rebellion.

Owners of whisky subsequently sued as non-rioters and the court held that the militia had acted illegally and exceeded its authority in confiscating privately-owned liquor.

The Orleans Grocery and warehouse, when it was originally located adjacent to the canal, included a beam which extended over the canal and was equipped with a large pulley.

A rope strung through the pulley was used to tie canal boat cargo on the boats and the other end of the rope was hitched to a mule driven along the towpath, lifting the cargo above the level of the warehouse wharf. The suspended cargo rope was then hooked with a pole, drawn to the dock and unfastened.

Mr. Schoenadel has in his possession ledgers dating back to the early 1900s which were kept by C. T. Callen, the then-proprietor of the grocery.

The payroll ledger, for example, shows that a laborer received \$2.50 a week salary while "colored help" was paid \$2 a week.

Other ledgers, all with neat handwriting, reveal store prices which would be bargains by today's standards. For example: 25 pounds of sugar for \$1.63; milk for 10 cents; six yards of calico for 42 cents; three pounds of coffee for 69 cents, and five pounds of nails for 15 cents.

The warehouse and blacksmith repair rates were also neatly registered, including wagon repairs ranging from 25 cents to \$1.50 and up; shoeing a horse for 60 cents; and replacing a pick handle for a quarter.

One lucky family obtained a full bedroom of furniture, complete with two large beds, for just \$22.10.

Today, the Orleans Grocery caters mainly to the tourist trade — primarily campers — with Mr. Schoenadel estimating that 90 per cent of his business comes from tourists.

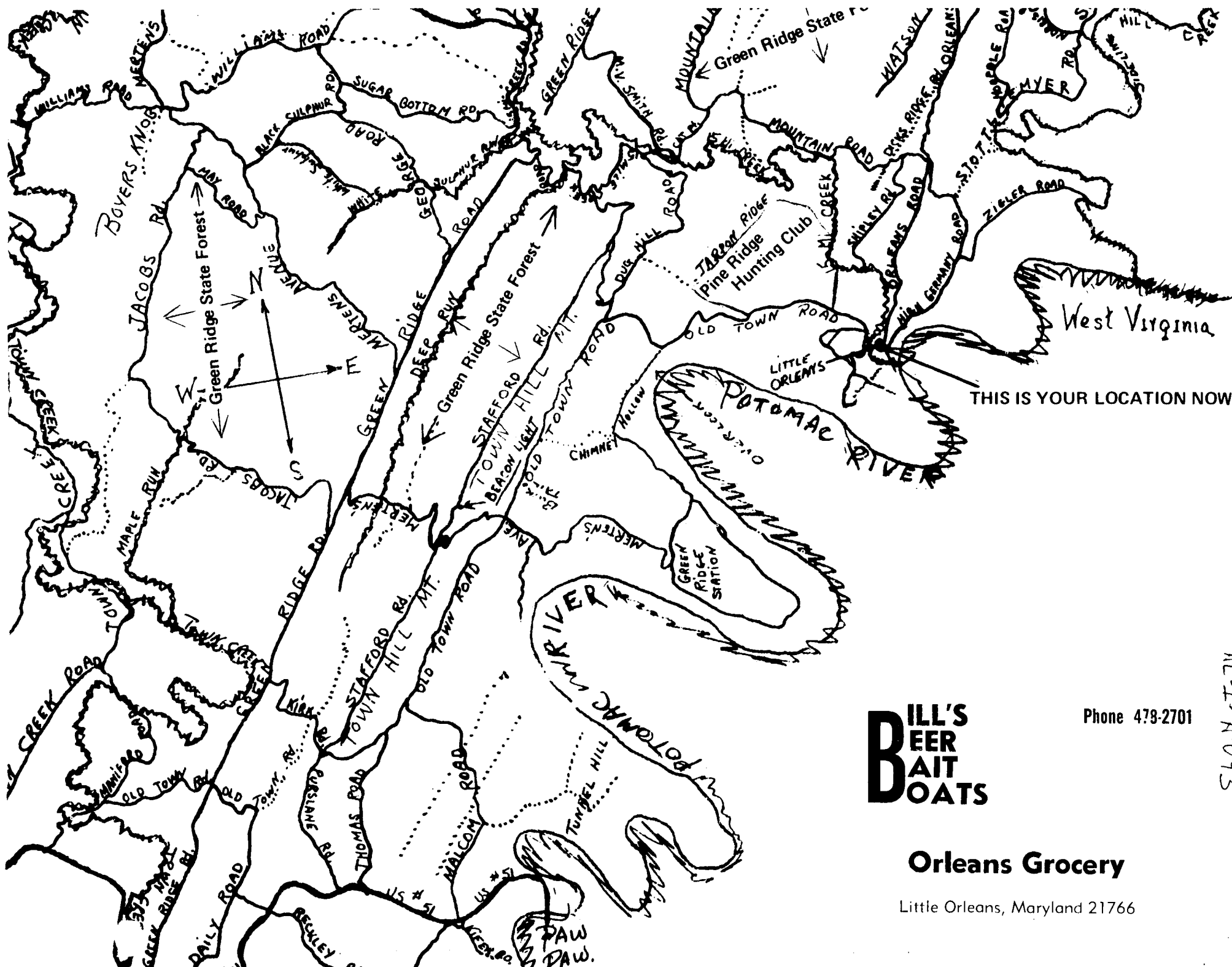
The store's busy season extends from mid-April to December. By far, Mr. Schoenadel said, the busiest time is deer hunting week. Throughout most of the year time out from a canal-long hike to visit the grocery for supplies and a rest.

Mr. Schoenadel, who is himself something of a history buff, said many interesting and revealing facts about the Little Orleans past can be learned from some of the older residents of the area. Until her death two years ago, Mrs. Raymond Higgins, who had been a canal boat cook, spent a number of hours talking to Mr. Schoenadel about life on the canal. She was 98 when she died.

Since he purchased the grocery eight years ago, Mr. Schoenadel has learned of a small hospital which was located nearby. Apparently not much more than a first-aid station, the hospital was still in operation in the 1920s and "Hospital Hill" is located on the Schoenadel property.

Mr. Schoenadel, who is also a printer at The Times and Allegan Company, operates the grocery with his wife, Ethel. The couple has five children: Paula and Kevin, at home; Mrs. Bonnie Blank of Little Orleans; Steven Schoenadel of LaVale, and John Schoenadel of Cresaptown.

Reprint From  
Cumberland News  
June 5, 1975



West Virginia

THIS IS YOUR LOCATION NOW.

**BILL'S  
BEER  
BAIT  
BOATS**

Phone 478-2701

**Orleans Grocery**

Little Orleans, Maryland 21766

AL-T-A-043

INVENTORY NO: #6

DATE:

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

AL-1-A-43

NAME OF PROPERTY: Little O Grocery

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: 2

NTL REG. NOM

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 215° SW

NAME OF OWNER: P. 15 William J. Schenadel 428/393 166 Acres

ADDRESS: Little Orleans Md. 21766 ph. # 478-2701

enclosed porch on rear

STORIES: 1( ) 2(✓) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4(✓) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

WINGS, ADDITIONS: ss on NW <sup>frame</sup> covered w/ <sup>tin</sup> imitation brick on Rear

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION: <sup>white</sup> large pine log beams support bldg.

exposed in rear

- (✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)  
 ( ) BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.  
 ( ) STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated  
 ( ) LOG  
 (✓) OTHER: Coverings COVERED ASBESTOS SHINGLES

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others cornerboards

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone uncoursed ashlar block

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1(✓) 2/2(✓) 6/6(✓) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
 pegged( ) nailed(✓) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center side facade Store door - double 1 narrow  
 HARDWARE: original(✓) replaced( )  
 FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
 Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards hardware heavy duty diagonal  
 outer door shuttersCORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
 original(✓) replaced( ) rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #

MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt; original( ) replaced( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed(✓) hip( ) gable( ) wrap around veranda 10 large chamfered

CHIMNEYS: Number: 2 Brick(✓) Stone( ) Corbeled( ) original(✓) replaced( )  
 Location: Flush end( ) Inside end(✓) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door &amp; Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

USE:

SIGNIFICANCE:

DATE CONSTRUCTED:

CONDITION:

on SE 2 large 2 1/2 w old shutters & hardware  
 pedimented with wooden logs all pegged  
 old door - pedimented w/ transom Boarded up  
 wide diagonal board outer door.



FLOOR PLAN:

- ( ) CENTRAL HALL: Two rooms, each side; double parlor, one side
- ( ) SIDE HALL: One room deep, two rooms deep
- ( ) IRREGULAR

STAIRWAYS:

- ( ) ENCLOSED: Single flight, two flights with landing
- ( ) OPEN: Single flight, two flights - one landing, three flights - two landings
- ( ) DOG-LEG
- ( ) DOG-LEG with WINDERS
- ( ) SPIRAL
- ( ) ROUNDED
- ( ) SYMMETRICAL DIVIDED FLIGHTS

WALL FINISH:

- ( ) PLASTER
- ( ) PANELED: original; replaced
- ( ) BOARD PARTITION: baseboard, cornice, chair rail, wainscot

FIREPLACES:

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION: parallel to walls, diagonal

MANTELS: wood mouldings, pilasters, columns, masonry, marble

DOORS: paneled, board and batten, flush

HARDWARE: original; replaced

DOOR & WINDOW TRIM:

- ( ) PLAIN
- ( ) ARCHITRAVE
- ( ) SYMMETRIC with CORNER BLOCKS
- ( ) FLUTED
- ( ) FLUTED with CORNER BLOCKS
- ( ) ARCHED OPENINGS: elliptical, tudor

NOTES:

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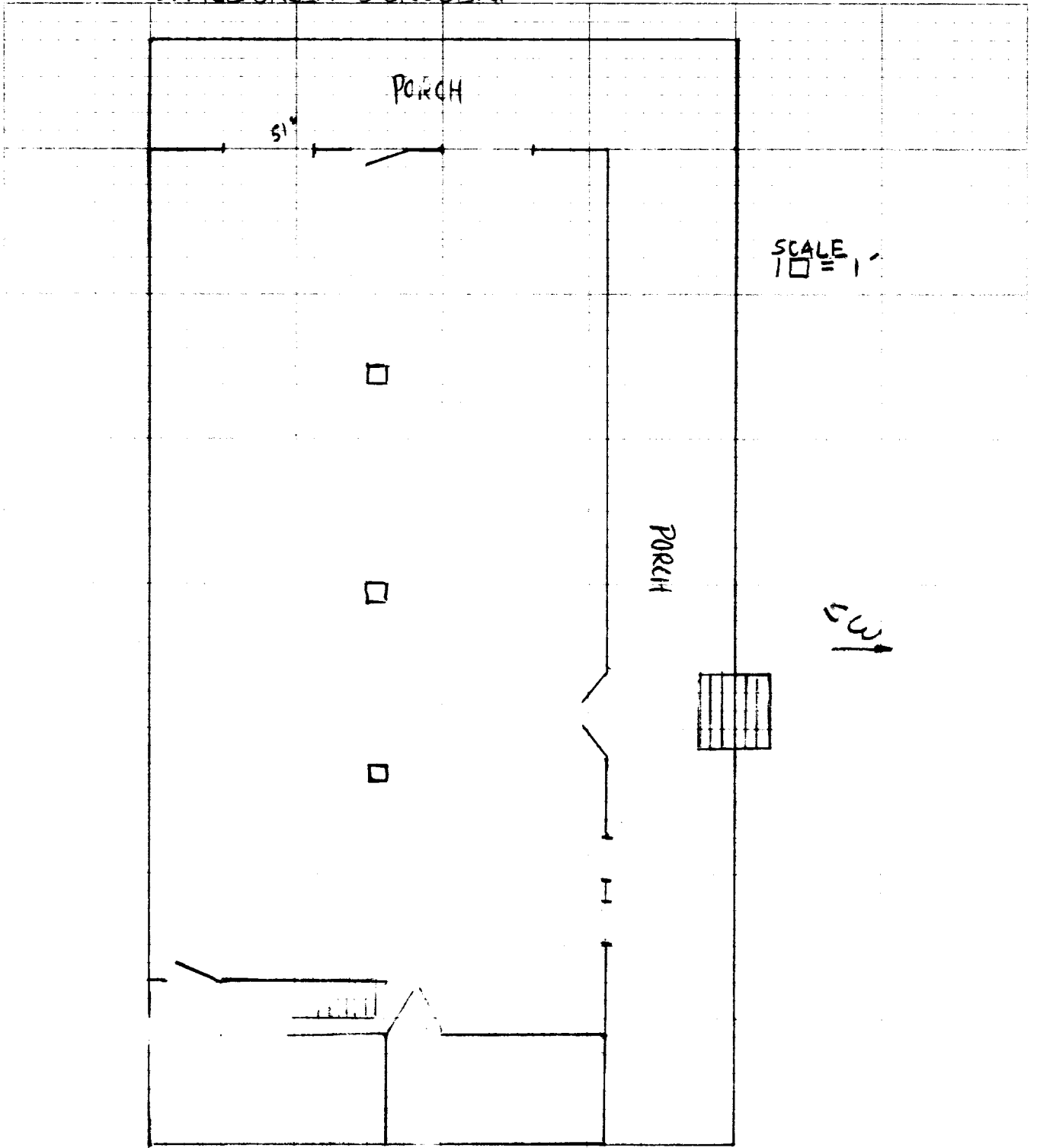
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LITTLE ORLEANS GROCERY







AZ - 1 - A - 043

LITTLE ORLEANS GROCERY

ORLEANS RD LITTLE ORLEANS

David A. Dorsey

8/6/79

North

# LITTLE ORLEANS

OPEN



POSTER



POSTER



AL-1-A-043  
LITTLE  
ORLEANS GROCERY

ORLEANS RD LITTLE ORLEANS

David A. Dorsey

6/6/79

Northeast





# ORLEANS GROCERY

Store on C & O Canal at Little Orleans,  
Maryland, September 1896. Moved in  
1904 to present location to make room  
for abandoned Western Maryland Railway.

Bill and Ethel Schoenadel, Owners

AL-I-A-043

POST CARD

FOR ADDRESS  
ONLY



AL-1-A-043

Little Orleans Grocery

Orleans Rd, Little Orleans

6/6/79

West

David A Dorsey



**TRC**

AL-1-A-043

LITTLE ORLEANS GROCERY  
ORLEANS RD LITTLE ORLEANS  
DAVID A. DORSEY

INTERIOR

12/11/75



AL-1-A-043

LITTLE ORLEANS GROCERY

ORLEANS RD, LITTLE ORLEANS

DAVIDA -DORSEY

12/11/79





AL-1-A-043

LITTLE ORLEANS GROCERY  
ORLEANS RD LITTLE ORLEANS  
DAVID A. DORSEY

INTERIOR

12/11/79